

Patapsco/Back Tributary Team

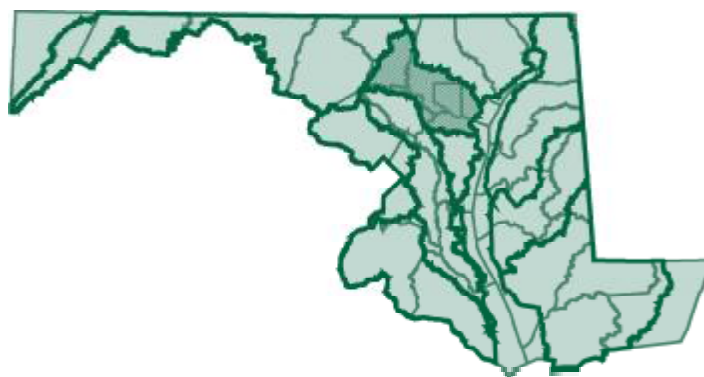
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About the Watershed:

The Patapsco/Back River Watershed is unique among Maryland's 10 Tributary Team watersheds since it has two rivers draining into the Baltimore metropolitan area – Maryland's largest urban population center. It also has two of the three largest sewage plants in the state and the most intensely developed land uses. The Patapsco and Back Rivers are degraded by centuries of development, and many efforts are underway to reverse the effects of years of pollution. Legacy issues, contaminated sediments, inappropriate shoreline development, loss of habitat, and degraded feeder streams are major issues for the Patapsco/Back Tributary Team.

About the Team:

The mission of the Patapsco/Back Tributary Team is to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs and to restore habitat in the Patapsco/Back Watershed through community participation. As such, the team strives to work with the five local jurisdictions within the watershed to find



regional solutions to the difficult problems often associated with urban watershed management. The team assists state and local agencies as well as private sector entities with identifying and addressing the watershed's issues. The team brings a broad perspective to the task, believing their role is to engage citizens and decision makers in dialogue leading to positive action.

Recent Accomplishments:

- The team focused its energy on policy action items for the 2005 legislative session by speaking to county delegations about key issues in our watershed.
- To gear up for the revision of the Tributary Strategies, the team held a series of meetings to get informed about a variety of issues pertinent to the basin. These meetings were thematic, focusing each month on a topic of current interest. In the past year, the team covered the education and outreach to communities and watershed organizations, habitat goals for the watershed, urban stormwater issues, Smart Growth, economics of pollution control, and infrastructure needs.



For the team's 4th Annual Secchi Dip-In, the Living Classrooms Foundation donated their skipjack, the Minnie V, to take the public out on an environmental boat tour of the Baltimore Harbor.

- The team continued to hold its annual Secchi Dip/Wade-In Event to coincide with Senator Bernie Fowler's Patuxent River Wade-In. This public outreach event will be held at North Point State Park on May 22nd 2005. On the same day, 20 other watershed organizations take Secchi readings throughout the Patapsco/Back Watershed. The Baltimore City Department of Public Works analyzes and maps these data every year.
- Starting in 2000 and continuing into 2004, the team maintained a tree grow-out station at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- In 2005, two team members were selected to take part in the Tributary Strategy Program's Leadership to help further define the roles and mission of the Tributary Teams.

For More Information:

For more information, contact Carrie Decker, team coordinator, at 410-260-8723. You can also visit our website at www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/.



Team members and participants pot trees for the tree grow-out station located at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.



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Team Members

Tom Filip, Chair, US Army Corps of Engineers
 John Martin, Vice-Chair, Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant
 Scott Macomber, State Contact, MD Dept. of the Environment
 Jack Anderson, Citizen
 Angie Ashley, National Aquarium in Baltimore
 Laura Bankey, National Aquarium in Baltimore
 John Botts, Aquatic Sciences Consulting
 Jacqueline Carrera, Parks & People Foundation
 Peter Conrad, Baltimore City Planning & Zoning
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Team Participants

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Team Coordinators

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